

S B

1 4 9



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 28, 1985

To: Senator Jan Faiks, Co-chair
Senator John Sackett, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee

From: Senator Vic Fischer and
Senator Joe Josephson

Re: Anchorage social service block grant (SB 149)

At the initiative of Anchorage senators who served on the Finance Committee in the thirteenth legislature, the FY 85 budget includes \$2.9 million as a grant to the municipality of Anchorage for social services.

It is our hope that the FY86 budget will include the amount of \$4.9 million, as recommended by the social services task force of the municipality of Anchorage.

In 1984, 78 groups in Anchorage sought \$6.6 million in grant funding. Only \$2.9 million, less than half of the request, was available. As a result, only 40 organizations received any funding at all, and most got considerably less than they asked for.

Of the 38 groups that received nothing, many have closed their doors. Essential services were not only cut, in many cases, they were eliminated altogether.

To quote an Anchorage Daily News editorial of November 1984, "The social service agencies we're talking about here aren't much on red tape, government-sized salaries, or empire building. Most persist largely through the dedication of low-paid staff and volunteers who squeeze all they can from short dollars and long talent."

"Across the country, cash-strapped governments are turning to such agencies both because they are impressively efficient and because they draw upon public involvement. They are generally the kind of groups private charity struggles to support: Red Cross, Salvation Army, Literacy Project, Campfire, Bean's Cafe...".

Nearly half the clients in any given Anchorage-based social service agency are non-Anchorage residents. The municipality has accepted the responsibility for administering state funds to these agencies and has

done an excellent job of auditing for performance and proper use of state funds.

It is fair and prudent for the state to assure that the MOA receives adequate funding to maintain current programs and assure that basic social services are available for all Alaskans in the municipal area.

cc: Anchorage area legislators ✓

1
2
3

Introduced: 2/12/85
Referred: Community & Regional Affairs, Health,
Education & Social Services and Finance

Funding Information
General Fund \$4,900,000
Other Funds - 0 -
\$4,900,000

1 IN THE SENATE

BY V.FISCHER AND JOSEPHSON

2 SENATE BILL NO. 149

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation for a
7 Municipality of Anchorage social services block
8 grant; and providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropria-
11 tion be used to contract with nonprofit agencies to provide public social
12 services in the Anchorage area, including programs that serve people from
13 other areas of the state. It is also the intent of the legislature that
14 contractors be selected according to criteria established by the Municipal
15 Social Services Task Force, and that the Municipality of Anchorage audit
16 those contracts upon completion.

17 * Sec. 2. The sum of \$4,900,000 is appropriated from the general fund
18 to the Municipality of Anchorage as a block grant for social services.

19 * Sec. 3. The appropriation made by this Act shall be disbursed in
20 accordance with AS 37.05.315.

21 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
22 10.070(c).

23
24
25